

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

COME-00 AGR-20 TAR-02 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

FEA-02 INT-08 /146 W

----- 078298

R 281550Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2715

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 022871

1. PRIMARY GOVERNMENT-INDUCED CUTBACKS IN EXPORTS SINCE JANUARY
1973 AS FOLLOWS:

A. SHIPS BUNKERS. BECAUSE OF TEMPORARY DIESEL AND
FUEL OIL SHORTAGE, GOG IN LATE 1973 IMPOSED BAN, NOW LIFTED,
ON BUNKERING FOREIGN VESSELS. (GOG FULLY AWARE OF USG POLICY
REQUIRING RECIPROCITY.)

B. MANGANESE. BY SEPT 25, 1973, PREEMPTION ORDER GOG
TOOK OVER MARKETING OF ALL MANGANESE NOT USED DOMESTICALLY.
TEMPORARY RESULT HAS BEEN SHARP DROP IN EXPORTS WHILE GOG
WORKS OUR SALES CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS.

C. TIMBER. MARKETING AND EXPORTING IN SOME DISARRAY AS
RESULT OF GOG EFFORTS STOP UNDERINVOICING (PRACTICED TO EVADE
FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS). LOGJAM AT TAKORADI HARBOR IS
UNINTENDED RESULT.

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D. STARCHY FOODS. WITH SERIOUS CONTINUING RISE IN PRICE OF MOST DOMESTIC FOODS, GOG ATTEMPTED ENFORCE BAN ON EXPORTS OF RICE, CORN, SORGHUM, PLANTAIN, AND CASSAVA (EXCEPT PROCESSED CHIPS).

2. NO PRESSURES FOR ADDITIONAL EXPORT RESTRAINTS EVIDENT. INDEED, IN MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT SECTOR, COCOA BEANS, GOG IS SELLING FORWARD NEXT YEAR'S CROP TO UNUSUAL EXTENT. HOWEVER, IF COCOA PRICES DROPPED SHARPLY WE WOULD EXPECT GOG TO CUT BACK SALES.

3. PREVIOUS PATTERN OF BARTER AGREEMENTS WITH USSR (MAINLY SOVIET CRUDE OIL TRADED FOR COCOA BEANS) HAS BEEN REPLACED BY SIMPLE CONTRACT FOR OUTRIGHT SOVIET SALE OF CRUDE TO GHANA AT PREVAILING WORLD PRICES. GHANA COCOA NOW APPARENTLY ALL BEING SOLD FOR CASH FOR FIRST TIME IN A DECADE.

4. COMPLETE LIST OF GHANA EXPORT CONTROLS AND TAXES IN EFFECT (PARA 2 REFTEL), MANY OF WHICH ONLY OF NUISANCE VALUE, WOULD BE MAJOR RESEARCH UNDERTAKING AND PROBABLY OF LITTLE USE TO DEPT. MAIN EXPORT CONTROL DEVICES ARE PERVASIVE LICENSING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS (DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO MAXIMIZE REPATRIATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROCEEDS), AND, FOR CERTAIN KEY COMMODITIES, GOG EXPORT MONOPLIES (TO CAPTURE REVENUE AT EARLY STAGE IN TRADING PROCESS). HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF ABOVE EXPORT CONTROL EFFORTS, MILITARY AND POLICE CHECKPOINTS, AND INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES, SIGNIFICANT OVERLAND EXPORT SMUGGLING PERSISTS.

5. PARA 3 ABOVE IS CONFIDENTIAL. REMAINDER IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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